

EEC summit postponed

March 24 (R) — Italy today postponed a Common Market for at least a month because of its lack of a government... (text continues)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Red Brigades kill three carabinieri

TURIN, Italy, March 24 (R)—Three para-military Carabinieri police were killed near Turin and a professor was shot in the legs in Genoa today. Red Brigades guerrillas in telephone calls to the press, said they made both attacks, bringing their toll of victims to 10 dead and four wounded this year. The Carabinieri were shot dead apparently without a gunfight on a public provincial bus making an early morning run. The bus driver was forced to drive to a place where an escape car was waiting for the gunmen. In Genoa, four young people led by a woman fired at university professor Giancarlo Moretti, who is also a Christian Democratic councillor, as he was arriving to give a university lecture on tax law, police said. Eye-witnesses said the woman hit the professor twice in the legs before the gang escaped.

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Hussein, Ben Jedd talks

dan, Algeria determined support Arab solidarity

March 24 (Agencies) — King Hussein and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid today began talks at the Royal Palace in Amman on "the Arab situation... (text continues)



His Majesty King Hussein and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid standing to attention at Amman airport Monday as national anthems of the two countries were played following the arrival here of the Algerian leader for a three-day official visit at the invitation of King Hussein.

Protest Israeli settlement plans

West Bankers stage general strike today

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 24 (Agencies) — Mayors of towns in the Israeli occupied West Bank called today for a general strike tomorrow against Israeli settlement plans in the Arab town of Hebron.

The Israeli cabinet decided yesterday to set up a Jewish religious school and history study centre in the heart of Hebron. At a protest meeting in Hebron today Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij called for a shutdown of all shops and businesses in the West Bank tomorrow. "The Israeli government intends to push the Arabs off their land and turn good agricultural areas into Jewish settlements. This policy can only be opposed by force," Mr. Freij said. Several mayors of important West Bank towns, including Nablus, Ramallah, Halhoul and Hebron itself, said they would support the strike. Gaza Mayor Rashad Al Shawwa sent a solidarity message to Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmil. Addressing a protest rally at the town hall, Mr. Qawasmil said the Israeli move should be opposed "even if it brings us into conflict with the authorities. The Israelis do not have enough jails for us all. We should halt all dealings with the Israelis — no business, no work, nothing." Bethlehem Mayor Freij told the meeting that the Israeli decision "ended any possibility of co-existence between Jews and Arabs." At the United Nations, Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim said today that Israel would violate the Geneva convention and a series of U.N. resolutions if it established Jewish schools in Hebron. Dr. Waldheim's statement said the reestablishment of a Jewish community in Hebron would clearly violate the fourth Geneva convention, which deals with the protection of civilians in wartime, and U.N. declarations, including a Security Council call on March 1 for the dismantling of Israeli settlements in captured territory. In Beirut, a radical Palestinian communitarian group called today for a general strike throughout the Israeli-occupied Arab territories on March 30 in protest against Israel's controversial settlement policy. The hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said in a press statement that Palestinians in the occupied territories should impose a total boycott on the Israelis. Palestinians call March 30 "the Day of the Land" and have demonstrated on the same date in previous years against Israeli rule in Palestine. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's supporters lobbied furiously today to stave off a fresh government crisis generated by the cabinet decision. Prime Minister Begin's flailing coalition government was seriously split by the decision which squeaked through by a slim 8-6 vote with two ministers abstaining and one absent. The prime minister agreed to submit the decision to the powerful Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee for approval before it is implemented. His supporters were busy today trying to convince their coalition partners to agree to postpone the show-down committee meeting. A cabinet source said that if the decision is defeated in committee, Mr. Begin would probably take it to the Knesset where it is by no means certain that he would command a majority on this particular issue. And a Knesset defeat would probably bring down the government. "The entire cabinet supports the idea of Jewish settlement in Samaria and Judea (West Bank) and the Gaza Strip," the cabinet official said. "But many oppose the new Hebron decision because of its timing." The Hebron decision will almost certainly be a central topic in the Washington talks which are designed to accelerate negotiations on Palestinian autonomy. The United States has frequently voiced its opposition to Jewish settlements in the Arab territories, calling them an obstacle to Middle East peace. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who has also been invited to hold separate talks with Mr. Carter, has also repeatedly criticised Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories. An Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman said in Cairo that the Hebron decision "casts more doubt on Israel's willingness to face the next round of negotiations on Palestinian autonomy in a spirit likely to give the peace process more momentum." The next round of the three-way talks begins in Alexandria on Thursday, on the first anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty. The chief U.S. negotiator, special envoy Sol Linowitz, held his second round of talks today with Mr. Begin. Neither party would give any details of what was discussed, although Mr. Begin said yesterday that the Hebron decision had been touched upon. Mr. Linowitz is expected to leave for Cairo tomorrow after a third morning session with the Israeli prime minister.

Sadat offers Shah permanent home

CAIRO, March 24 (Agencies) — The deposed Shah of Iran, looking tired and drawn, arrived in Egypt today and President Anwar Sadat declared he would be staying in this country permanently. The former monarch, who left his previous exile-haven in Panama yesterday, told reporters in a faint voice after his airliner landed at Cairo airport: "After the operation we will have ample time to talk to you." The ex-Shah was apparently referring to an operation to remove his spleen. He was whisked away from the airport by helicopter to a heavily-guarded military hospital near Cairo. On his arrival, the deposed Shah, 60, was met by President Sadat who walked with him from the DC-8 airliner and declared to journalists: "The Shah will be staying permanently." Emphasising each syllable, he repeated the word "permanently." The ex-Shah left Panama a day before Iran planned to start extradition proceedings against him. In Tehran, Iranian Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh made a last ditch attempt today to prevent the ex-Shah's move to Egypt by offering to arrange the transfer of the American hostages to government control. He told the official Pars News Agency after the Shah left Panama that "if the Shah is detained on his way to Egypt and returned to Panama to take part in the extradition trial, I declare that to prove the goodwill of the Iranian government and to do away with any excuses the hostages will be handed over to the Revolutionary Council within 24 hours." Informed sources said the foreign minister was in constant touch last night with Iran's lawyers in Panama to try to persuade Panamanian authorities to delay the extradition trial. Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr was quoted in a French newspaper today as saying that Iran would seek the ex-Shah's extradition from wherever he took refuge. Mr. Bani-Sadr was quoted in a dispatch from Tehran by Le Monde correspondent Eric Rouleau who was at the Iranian president's home last night when the news came through from Panama that the ex-Shah had left for Cairo. Mr. Bani-Sadr reacted by saying that he would not let the issue be dodged. "We will continue to ask the United States for the Shah's extradition." "For us, Panama or Egypt, it's six of one and half a dozen of the other. These are two countries of American obedience." Quoting Mr. Qotbzadeh, who was also present, Le Monde's correspondent said that the Iranian government had promised Panama the ex-Shah would not be executed if he was extradited. In Washington, administration officials said today the United States had urged the ailing former Shah to stay in Panama because of concern that his departure for Egypt would worsen the hostage crisis in Tehran. The Shah decided to leave Panama despite resolution of a controversy over medical treatment and assurances that the Panamanian government would not extradite him to Iran, officials said. The officials declined to explain the reasons for his decision to return to Egypt apart from saying that some of his aides had made statements that offended Panamanian authorities. At the United Nations,



The deposed Shah of Iran, accompanied by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, smiles upon arrival at the Ma'adi Military Hospital Monday afternoon. The former Shah is to receive medical treatment at the hospital, located on the outskirts of Cairo. (AP wirephoto)

Regional Briefs

SAUDI ARABIA, March 24 (R) — Saudi Arabia will buy 200 million worth of guns from Austria, the official Press Agency said today. The consignment covered air and 15-millimetre machineguns, the agency quoted Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Defence, as saying. He also said that samples of Austrian tanks and anti-aircraft guns would arrive in Saudi Arabia next July for testing. "If proved suitable, Saudi Arabia will discuss the purchase of joint production of such weapons," Sultan added. The minister made the statement in Riyadh talks with Austrian Defence Minister Otto Roesch, who arrived on Saturday on a three-day official visit.

DHABI, March 24 (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) today approved a federal budget of 16 billion dirhams (\$4.3 billion), an increase of more than 60 per cent on last year's budget, the official Emirates News Agency said. Full details of the budget were not revealed. But the budget provided 2.8 billion dirhams to cover big subsidies on petrol prices in the UAE emirates, increases in armed forces and police pay and costs of opening two new power stations in Sharjah and Ajman emirates. The 1980 federal budget should have been approved in January but was held up by disagreement on how much the emirates should pay into it. The cabinet draft now goes to the UAE's 40-member appointed parliament for study and the supreme council of the seven emirates' rulers for final approval.

BAHRAIN, March 24 (R) — Bahrain and Luxembourg have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, a ministry statement quoted by the Gulf News Agency said today.

ADEN, March 24 (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to give Sudan two loans totalling \$150 million, the Kuwaiti paper Al Anbaa said today. It said the two countries also agreed to study the possibility of increasing the capital of their investment company, established in 1977, from \$20 million to \$100 million. The agreements were reached during Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri's visit to the UAE last week, it said. One of the \$100 million would be spent on completing the Khartoum airport at the Sudanese capital Khartoum. The other loan was worth \$50 million but gave no details.

DHABI, March 24 (R) — A Palestinian leader, Mr. Salah al-Din, today called on Japan to invite Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat for talks, according to the official Watan News Agency (WAM). "A development must happen between the government of Japan and the PLO through a direct invitation to the PLO," WAM quoted Mr. al-Din as saying. Mr. Khalaf (Abu Iyad) ranks second to Mr. Arafat, the biggest Palestinian commando group. In a separate interview earlier this month Mr. Khalaf accused the PLO of following an inconsistent, negative Palestinian policy which Arab governments to take firm action against Japan, which depends on Arab oil, has not officially recognised. But he has declared that the organisation is the legitimate representative of Palestinians.

At World Muslim Congress at Famagusta

Denktash accuses Muslim states of adopting double standards on Cyprus

NICOSIA, March 24 (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash today accused the world's Muslim countries of adopting double standards in their attitudes towards the community's problems with the Greek-Cypriots. Opening the eighth World Muslim Congress at Famagusta, he told delegates from 49 countries that it was wrong for their governments to support resolutions which opposed his community. Mr. Denktash said the Muslim communities came out in support of the Turkish-Cypriots at conferences such as the one he was opening, but in other international events they did the opposite because it suited their policies as non-aligned countries. "If this approach is condoned, then Islamic solidarity will be just an empty expression of distant hope," he said. The holding of the congress in the self-proclaimed Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is seen as a major political coup for the Turkish-Cypriot administration. The state is recognised only by the Greek-Cypriot administration in the south of this divided island accepted as the official government of the republic. A senior representative of the United Nations was present at the opening, the first time a U.N. representative has attended a conference in the north. Mr. Denktash described his community as "the Palestinians of Cyprus". He said the Palestinians' cause had been advanced because Islamic countries gave it full priority at non-aligned conferences and at the United Nations. "In our present state, we need further and better support," he said. The secretary-general of the World Muslim Congress, Dr. Inamullah Khan, told the congress: "The restitution of the sovereign rights of the people of Palestine is still awaited. The same is true in the case of the people of Kashmir, Eritrea, the matter of Filipino Muslims or that of Turkish Cypriotes. Despite the United Nations' overwhelming resolution for the restoration of the status-quo of Jerusalem, it is still under Zionist forceful occupation," he said. He criticised the Soviet Union, without referring to it by name, for expanding communism in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America and said it might be threatening the important region around the Red Sea. "The Russians by their naked invasion of Afghanistan have once again proved that human rights can be raped by the powerful ones without any regard to international law or the sovereign right of nations," he said. Congress President Marouf Dawalibi told the delegates that in connection with Afghanistan "we suggest to start a dialogue with the rulers of the Kremlin, particularly after all nations have denounced this invasion." He accused President Carter of depriving the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and said this was "inexplicable favouritism of Israel's wishes." He added that this was being done only to "win over the Jewish electoral card." He said the Palestinian cause had had enough betrayal of justice thanks to the Jewish lobby, the Congress and the American press. He accused the Jewish lobby of stopping American assistance to Somalia during the fighting with Ethiopia in the Ogaden region, for stopping arms supplies to Pakistan and for stopping arms supplies to Turkey "when Turkey wanted to put an end to the massacres and persecution of the Turkish community in Cyprus." The theme of the conference is "Islam, peace and the difficulties of mankind". The problems faced by countries such as Cyprus, the Philippines, Eritrea, some African states, and the Palestinians are due to be discussed, according to a spokesman for the conference. Former prime minister of Indonesia, Dr. Mohammad Natsir, will deliver the key-note speech to the congress, but the only sessions open to the public will be the first and last. The conference is due to end on Thursday.

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Prince Hassan holds talks with Genscher in Germany

AMMAN, March 24 (Agencies)—His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Sarvath left today on a visit to West Germany and Britain.

On arrival in Bonn, Prince Hassan met with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The Bonn Foreign Ministry later published a communique describing German-Jordanian relations as "excellent."

"An extensive exchange of opinions followed about international matters" with special reference to "the situation after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan," the statement said.

Mr. Genscher told Prince Hassan that because of the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan it was particularly urgent that the dispute between the Arab states and Israel should be resolved, a ministry statement said.

Mr. Genscher added that self-determination for Palestinians must become a reality before a durable Middle East peace could be achieved.

The two men, who were due to have more talks tonight, also discussed bilateral issues.

Tomorrow, Prince Hassan and

Princess Sarvath go on to Britain where Prince Hassan is scheduled to open the first Biennial Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan at Oxford University tomorrow.

The conference has been organised jointly by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and Oxford University.



West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher shakes hands with His Highness Crown Prince Hassan prior to their talks at the Foreign Ministry in Bonn Monday.

Israel's Hebron policies 'make peace impossible'

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Israeli government's decision on Sunday to establish two Jewish residential schools in the Arab West Bank town of Hebron was a defiant challenge to international opinion. The following article from combined news agency reports looks at the background to the tensions in Hebron.

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank—An ancient shrine over a cave where the biblical patriarch Abraham was buried 3,800 years ago is the focus of murderous tension here between Israeli settlers and native Palestinians.

Hebron is the place in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of Jordan where Jews and Muslims live closest to each other. At the best of times coexistence is uneasy between the 50,000 Muslims of Hebron and the 3,000 Jews from the hillside suburb of Kiryat Arba, the largest and most militant Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

At the end of January, an Israeli soldier was shot to death while walking in the maze-like Arab market. The Israeli army put Hebron under curfew for 10 days while searching fruitlessly for the gunman.

The simmering resentment between the two peoples is plain to see by spending just a few minutes in the Mosque of Abraham.

A dozen Jews, praying in one of the two rooms set aside to serve as a synagogue, watched warily as Sheikh Saleh Al Zir, Hebron's director of Islamic affairs, showed an Associated Press reporter around. Some of the Jewish men had a prayer book in one hand and a submachine gun in the other.

While Sheikh Al Zir was pointing out the features of the main Muslim hall of worship, one of the settlers came out and stalked back and forth in front of him. "He's trying to provoke me," the Sheikh muttered. "There's so much provocation here."

As if on cue, a young settler came out of the synagogue room, lit a cigarette and puffed it ostentatiously while strolling around the Muslim worship place.

"No smoking, no smoking," Sheikh Al Zir shouted. The young man got rid of the cigarette but then conspicuously joined the Sheikh's tour while a second settler carrying a submachine gun watched from the synagogue door as if he were covering a comrade in a battle zone.

"The Israelis are like Nazis," a Muslim guard whispered. "The only thing they know is war and force. They want us out of here so they can turn this mosque into a synagogue and museum."

Such is the depth to which Palestinian-Israeli feelings have sunk in a shrine dedicated to Abraham, revered by both Jews and Muslims as a patriarch.

Before Israel conquered the West Bank in 1967, Jews had been banned from conducting religious services at the mosque for 700 years. There was a small Jewish community in Hebron for centuries until riots of 1929 and 1936. By building the Kiryat Arba settlement, Israel re-established a Jewish presence in Hebron, and the Israeli army enforces staggered worship schedules that are designed -- but fail -- to avoid friction.

Hebron's most militant Jewish resident is probably Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the father of 10 children and head of the fanatical Gush Emunim (Faith Bloc) settlers' movement.

The Levinger family is one of five white since last October has been squatting in the Hadassa Jewish Clinic, a building which has stood empty since Jews were forced out of Hebron in 1929.

The purpose of the sit-in is to assert Jewish "rights" to dwell in the midst of Hebron's Palestinian population and live close to the tomb of Abraham.

When Jewish women moved into the Hadassa building, the Israeli government contented itself with giving them a formal order to quit and thereafter ignoring their refusal to comply.

Telephone lines, water supplies, food and a heavy Israeli army guard were duly supplied to maintain the illegal occupation.

Ten adults and about 20 children inhabit the



Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmli

Hadassa clinic, crowded into rooms with arched ceilings and heavy flagstone flooring. One room has been turned into a synagogue. Makeshift furniture is jumbled around and iron bars secure the windows from the narrow streets outside. "Comfort does not matter," one wife said. "Just to live here is what is important."

Levinger told Reuters: "If Israel insists that Jerusalem should not be divided, then why should Hebron be split into Jewish and Arab quarters? We must have the right to live here."

Building on a wave of sympathy after the soldier was killed in January, Kiryat Arba militia demanded that the government agree to let Jews return to 40 houses in the centre of Hebron that were allegedly owned by Jews in 1929.

On Feb. 10, the government agreed in principle, but it said it would decide in the future whether and where Jews would move into Hebron. Although no immediate action was taken, a decision sparked street protests from the United States and Egypt. Israel's partners in negotiating Palestinian "autonomy" in the West Bank at Gaza Strip.

Some Israeli comment on the decision was scathing. A columnist in the Jerusalem Post wondered whether Prime Minister Menachem Begin realised his government was setting a precedent for Palestinians to demand the return of homes they lost in Israel in the 1948 war.

The Post also criticised the way the army enforced the 10-day curfew in Hebron, allowing Jews from Kiryat Arba full freedom in Hebron while Arab (Palestinian) children looked helpfully through the bars of their houses.

Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmli was incensed that the curfew had not affected Jewish women from Kiryat Arba who have been illegally occupying one of the Jewish-owned buildings in Hebron for nine months.

"This is because they are Jews and we are Arabs -- Muslims, and we are punished," Mr. Qawasmli said. "If they want to live with us, let them under curfew too."

Mayor Qawasmli maintained that he is not passing for a moderate in the highly charged atmosphere in the West Bank: one who is willing to live peacefully beside Israel if a Palestinian state is established.

"I think the Israeli government wants to change us into reactionaries," he said. "We talk peace; they treat us badly. It's impossible to live together impossible to have peace in the Middle East because of the policies of the Begin government."

Sheikh Al Zir said that during the curfew settlers from Kiryat Arba damaged the public address system used to call Muslim faithful to the five daily prayer services in the Mosque of Abraham. The Sheikh, a burly 37-year-old, wears sport coats and slacks instead of the flow robes of most Muslim religious figures, said he has been pushed around several times by soldiers during the curfew even though he had a permit move about.

"If we did not love our country, we would have left long ago," Sheikh Al Zir said. "There is no tension for us here."

End to coexistence?

IF THE Israeli cabinet's decision on Sunday to re-establish a Jewish presence in the Arab West Bank city of Hebron is not a wilfully suicidal move, then what is it?

The vote in the cabinet to set up two Jewish residential schools in the heart of Hebron was virtually a split decision: more ministers did not vote for it (six against and two abstentions with one absentee) as did (eight in favour). To take effect, it must first go to committees of the Israeli parliament and then to the full Knesset, where Mr. Begin's majority is by no means sufficient to guarantee passage of such a controversial measure. The Begin government could very well fall as a result.

Moreover, the move seems almost deliberately calculated to sour the negotiations with Egypt on Palestinian "autonomy," to cast a fresh chill over Israel's relations with the United States, to embarrass Mr. Begin's friend Jimmy Carter at a crucial point in his re-election campaign and in general to lose Israel sympathy around the world.

None of these may be particularly undesirable eventualities from our point of view, but we still cannot but wonder at the purposes of such an apparent strategy as far as the Begin regime is concerned.

Worst of all, the decision alone—even without an early implementation of it—is certain to heighten tensions which are already running high in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. When the Arab mayor of Bethlehem, Mr. Elias Freij, speaks of the decision as laying to rest any hopes of Arab-Jewish coexistence in Palestine, one can be sure that this is a very serious matter indeed.

As the Palestinians have made many significant gains in the past year towards achieving greater recognition and support for their rights to self-determination in their homeland in Palestine, people on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict have been searching for ways of effecting such a coexistence in the inevitable redrawing of the map of Palestine.

Has the fanaticism and inflexibility of Mr. Begin and his ilk reached such extremes that they want to be responsible to history for spoiling these future prospects? To what end? The people who shout loudest about guarantees for Israel's security, and about "peace," seem to be doing their utmost to hasten their own destruction.

Of course, the Hebron decision is untenable and diabolical on grounds of principle alone. But it is when examined as a tactic that it loses all meaning whatsoever. "Creating facts" is one thing; creating mayhem, in which—no doubt as Mr. Begin would wish it—the Arabs stand to lose most is quite another. There are unpleasant parallels in the Jews' own history for such moves as were authorised on Sunday. We should contemplate whether now, as then, genocide is the ultimate intention of the decision makers.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

M. RA'I: Algeria, as seen by every Arab person, represents a distinct social, economic and political experiment which after long years of victory and stability still constitutes the "sublime example" for all Arab forces who work for progress, liberty and aspire to comprehensive Arab unity. This distinguished status enjoyed by Algeria is one of the factors that gives special significance to the visit of President Chadli Ben Jedd to Jordan.

No doubt, this visit comes at the time when the Arab struggle against Zionism and imperialist forces is passing through its most delicate and dangerous stages. The other factor which gives this visit to Jordan its importance, is that Jordan has borne the biggest share in the Arab confrontation with the enemy and has a major role to play in the next stages whether they be military or political.

The relations between the Jordanians and Algerian peoples were established by the two leaders during the recent visit of His Majesty King Hussein to Algeria. The two leaders' views were identical towards various current Arab affairs especially towards attempts at resolving the Palestinian issue, Algeria's status at the international level, and especially within the non-aligned movement, qualifies it to undertake an extremely significant role in the next stages of Arab action. This, we believe, will receive special attention in talks between His Majesty King Hussein and his distinguished guest.

AL DUSTOUR: The significance which we attach to the Algerian leader's visit lies in the results to which his tour may lead, in terms of strengthening joint Arab action on the Palestinian issue, deepening Arab solidarity and bolstering Arab ties in order to provide the means to confront the enemy and secure preparedness for the dangerous forthcoming stages.

The Algerian president realises as well as His Majesty King Hussein that the Arab nation is passing through a critical stage which requires transcending passivity and disagreements. This will enable the Arabs to face challenges and external threats—particularly the Zionist aggression which constitutes the main opposition to our national existence.

The hope is that King Hussein's meeting with his distinguished guest will foster cooperation between our two peoples and countries in all fields, whether economic, political or cultural and that their talks will lead to the deepening and clarifying of their joint vision about the nature of the threats against our nation and means of confronting them.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Muscle vs. wisdom

Dear Sir,

I refer to Mr. Robert B. Staller's letter in the Jordan Times of the March 20.

He refers to "American blood spilled coming to the aid of the Allied Cause in 1917."

The Allied "cause" in 1917 was the retention of their colonial empires and to prevent Kaiser's Germany from muscling in on their preserves.

That "cause" had nothing to do with the liberation of the down-trodden peoples -- which was the result of their own endeavours and in the context of the inevitability of history.

American interest in that war -- or for that matter in any struggle has always been the preservation -- and continuation -- of American economic interests. It has no relation whatever with the welfare of the peoples elsewhere who might get involved with or without their consent. Cambodia is a recent example.

And the threats recently issued about American preparedness to intervene militarily in the Arab Gulf has spelt out again what the real and brutal -- facts of life are. Gulf oil is vital to the economic interests of the Americans -- and not the well-being of the inhabitants of the Gulf. This matters nothing and even less.

Time and again this has been so -- Guatemala, Congo (Lumumba), Korea, Vietnam, Chile, to name only a few are instances in recent history -- when the welfare of the local peoples has had no impact on the decisions of the American governments -- whose sole motivation is the welfare of the American economy.

So let us not be told that American blood was spilled for our well-being!

One other point. No people ever achieve any self-respect by getting on to someone else's shoulders. The "freedom" of a nation is true only to the extent that it is achieved and preserved by themselves. The moment you "owe" that to anyone you are no more free.

Mr. Staller speaks disparagingly of the "Ottoman viziers" who "obscenely graced" etc. If he cares to think a little more, he will realise that the really "obscene" rulers of the world like the Somozas, the Reza Pahlavis, have all survived for whatever period they did on American support -- and this support was specifically to drown the aspirations of the peoples they ruled.

In fact, decent governments anywhere start to worry when America offers them "friendship".

Mr. Staller makes a long list of American achievements -- a whole list of technological successes. Undoubtedly so. Whether these successes have added to human happiness is a very moot point. The hordes of the young opting out even in the U.S. makes one wonder.

These technological wonders have merely contributed to the rat race everywhere -- destroying age-old traditions and values, where human compassion and fellow-feeling have been discounted and all that matters is the glitter of competitive material tinsel. Hardly something to gloat about.

Mr. Staller is actually proud of the possibility of providing a "mechanical brain". That in one line sums up the whole philosophy of the Americans -- if one can use so noble a word to so crass an attitude which is the source of so much of the world's human tragedy today.

Nature's laws are such that physical strength and mental powers do not go together. Muscle is one thing -- wisdom quite another. Certainly the U.S. carries a lot of muscle. But perhaps the invention of the mechanical brain will save them from the same fate as the brontosaurus?

Yours sincerely,

A. Rajagopalan

P.O. Box 35027
Amman

March 21, 1980

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibition

The French Cultural Centre presents an exhibition of photos and posters on "Advanced Technology" in France. The exhibition can be visited during regular hours until the end of the month.

Documentary Films

The French Cultural Centre presents, in conjunction with the exhibition on advanced technology, documentary films on the automobile industry at 5:30 p.m. The films are "Sur toutes les routes du monde", "Le pneu radiale Michelin, champion du monde 1979 de Formule 1", "Metamorphoses" and "Renault et le turn".

British Film

The British Council presents the film of Harold Pinter's "The Caretaker" at 6:00 p.m. The film is directed by Clive Donner and stars Donald Pleasance, Alan Bates and Robert Shaw.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a film entitled "Flammende Herzen" starring Peter Kern and Barbara Valentin. The film starts at 8:00 p.m. and is subtitled in English. Recommended for adults only.

Press Association condemns Israeli action

AMMAN, March 24 (JT)—The Jordanian Press Association (JPA) today denounced the Israeli cabinet's decision to build two Jewish residential schools in the West Bank town of Hebron.

The JPA branded this as a decision to begin settling in Hebron, and condemned Israeli ambitions on Jerusalem's Aqsa Mosque, and its siege of the Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah.

It said that Israel was implementing its announced plans of annexing the West Bank, Judaizing it, and evacuating its legitimate owners—all amid the Camp David atmosphere.

In a statement issued today the JPA said: "This decision of further encroachment on the town

of Hebron comes only a few days before the convening of the U.N. Security Council in order to debate the Palestinian issue. This reflects the extent of the enemy government's scorn of the international organisation and its decisions.

"The Zionist enemy's designs and intentions would not have materialised without the direct and unlimited support of the United States which provides Israel with the financial aid and the armaments to consolidate its occupation and suppression of Arab lands and the eviction of Palestinians from their homes."

The JPA called on Arab countries to treat all countries on the

basis of their attitude towards the Palestinian issue, whether political or economic, in accordance with the resolutions of successive Arab summit conferences.

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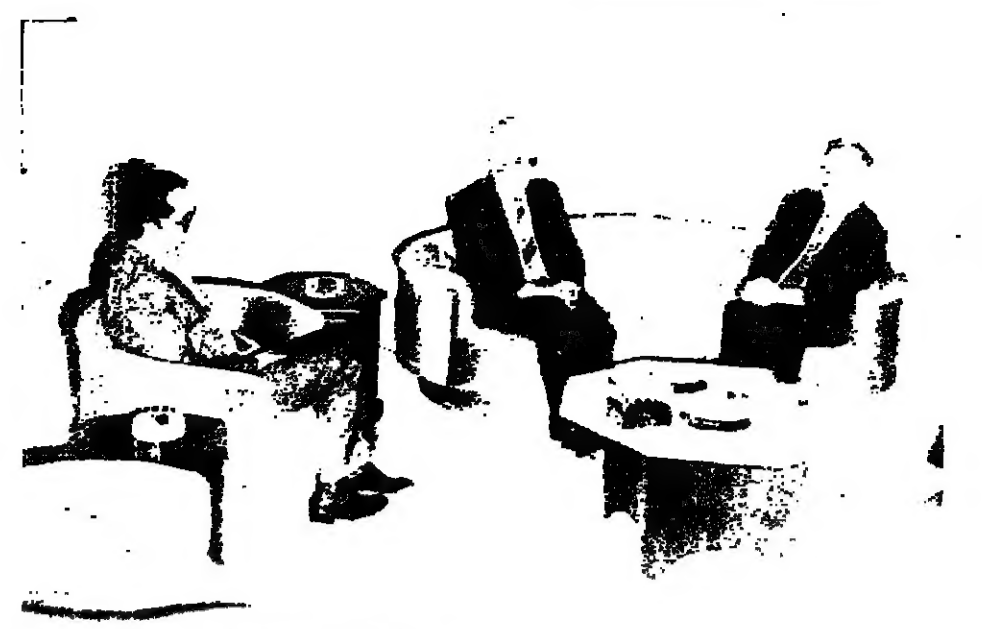
Scenes from the Algerian president's visit to Amman



President Chadli Ben Jedid shakes hands with Jordanian dignitaries who greeted him at Amman airport Monday.



The Algerian president's motorcade passes through the flag bedecked streets of Amman while the crowds cheer.



His Majesty King Hussein, President Ben Jedid and Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Sharaf meet for talks.

Local News Briefs

AN, March 24 (JNA) — A pan-Arab agricultural coordination committee began a three-day meeting here today. A spokesman for the Arab Economic Unity said the committee will discuss security and coordinating agricultural policies in the Arab world. The committee, headed by Mr. Abdul Wahhab Jamil, was elected at the meeting at the opening session. The committee is composed of delegates from Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine and the Yemen Arab Republic.

BA, March 24 (JNA) — The Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Shafat, yesterday continued his tour of Aqaba by visiting the port area. He also watched the loading of the grain ships at the harbour. The prime minister, accompanied by Minister of Transport, Ali Suheimat; Minister of Agriculture, Rifaat al-Rifaat; Minister of Trade, Ali Nour and the governor of Ma'an later visited the residential areas of the city and met with the mayor of Aqaba, a notables and heads of government departments for a discussion of the city's problems and needs. After his visit to Aqaba, the prime minister called at the Hasa phosphate mines where he was met by officials on the mines.

4AN, March 24 (JNA) — A spokesman for the Land and Survey Department said today that total revenues from land taxes and land registration fees collected by the department last month totalled JD 979 against JD 991,280 in February 1979.

4AN, March 24 (JNA) — The Public Security Directorate has announced that the two bridges across the Jordan River will be closed during the following schedule: March 31, 1980: bridges will be closed after 10:00 a.m. April 1, 1980: bridges will be closed all day. April 7, 1980: bridges will be closed all day April 20, 1980: bridges will be closed after 10:00 a.m. According to the announcement, only in emergency cases will be permitted on these days. No vehicles will be given for the closures.

AN, March 24 (JT) — A spokesman for the Public Security Directorate said today that a total of 13 incidents occurred in Jordan last week, resulting in the death of one person and the injury of three. On Saturday there were 14 incidents which resulted in the death of 11 people.

AN, March 24 (JNA) — The military governor today sentenced seven people by the military court. Two were sentenced to five years with hard labour and the payment of a JD fine and the other received a life sentence and was fined JD 40. The other five were fined JD 40 each for violating ministry of regulations.

4AN, March 24 (JNA) — The Director of the Sudanese Cooperative Development Bank, Mr. Mohammed Hassan Jiha, arrived here for a two week visit to Jordan. He will meet with a number of officials at the Jordan Cooperative Organisation and will familiarise himself with the organisation's credit operations, and bank management in Jordan. Mr. Jiha will tour a number of cooperatives to see their various projects and achievements.

4AN, March 24 (JNA) — The visiting Romanian minister of Energy, Mr. Ion Stanesco, today visited the Ministry of Electricity and met with its officials. He was briefed on the ministry's project for linking the towns of Bayader, Qatari, Karak, Ghor Al Safi, Husa and Rashadiyah in southern Jordan with the power station south of Amman. The project also feeds with the power station south of Amman. The project also feeds with the power station south of Amman. The project also feeds with the power station south of Amman.

4AN, March 24 (JNA) — The visiting delegation of deans of Jordan universities today visited the Royal Scientific Society and met with its director general, Dr. Albert Butros. The delegation was briefed on the activities of the RSS and its contribution to the development of Jordan.

4AN, March 24 (JNA) — West German specialists today started installing computers at the Land and Survey Department. They are installing map drawing machines and a special microfilm camera. The department received this equipment as part of a U.N. technical assistance project.

Unequal treatment, delay top list of citizens' complaints in first monthly ombudsman's report

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 24 — Discrimination and unnecessary or intentional delays in dealing with citizens are the major complaints levelled against government institutions, according to the first monthly report of the Citizens' Complaints Bureau submitted to the prime minister today.

The report deals with the 712 complaints received by the bureau since it opened on Jan. 22 through the month of February.

Mr. Eid Abu Karaki, manager of the ombudsman's office told the Jordan Times yesterday that 546 of the complaints fell within the jurisdiction of the office and were properly signed. Most of these, he said, came from citizens claiming that they had received unequal treatment at the hands of government employees, had experienced extreme delays in government procedures or had legitimate requests neglected.

He added that very few complaints had been lodged in a fourth area the office was set up to handle—mistreatment of citizens by government employees.

Written complaints have not been received at all in the fifth area within the office's jurisdiction which is rather ambiguously called "exploitation of citizens in

government dealings."

He said he felt citizens were afraid to formally complain about requests to pay government employees to perform services either because the citizen himself is implicated or fears reprisals. However, he said, he has personally received information orally about such instances and other forms of bribery and is now "thinking of ways to deal with the information."

Mr. Abu Karaki considers 30 per cent of the complaints lodged to be on "matters of importance." He added that this percentage "is very good to see. The prime minister had said that even 20 per cent would be good."

Of the 546 complaints within the office's jurisdiction on which action could be taken, 207 have been settled, and 50 were decided in favour of the citizens who registered the complaints. The rest, he said, involved misunderstandings which had been sorted out between the citizen and the government institution and a number in which the citizen's complaint was found to be groundless.

He said he derived a great deal of personal satisfaction from the cases that had been solved in favour of the citizen, particularly since some of them involved applications that had been pending with the government for up to seven years. Grateful citizens have

sent the bureau letters of thanks.

While managing the bureau, he has come across what he called "group complaints"—up to 50 individuals separately giving the same complaint about the same government department. He said he is now working on general solutions to group complaints by finding out if a particular law, procedure or person is at fault.

He said the bureau had received complaints about 38 government departments and offices but declined to specify which ones. However, the prime minister announced at a press conference several weeks ago that of the 604 complaints received midway through February, 76 had been received about the Ministry of Education and the Passport Department, 16 against the Ministry of Finance, 12 against the Income Tax Department and five against the Customs Department.

The bureau has not received any complaints from foreigners—who are entitled to lodge protests with it—but it has received letters from Jordanians in the Gulf and even Yugoslavia. Only one or two private companies have registered complaints although, he said, the bureau welcomes them.

The bureau, Mr. Abu Karaki said, has also dealt with the 166 letters considered to be out of its jurisdiction or invalid. Petitions or

requests for interviews with the country's leaders were passed on to the proper offices. Other cases, such as individuals seeking welfare relief, were referred to the proper ministry, for example the Ministry of Social Development.

Among the 166 were letters in which the petitioner gave no name or gave an obviously false name. He said they made every effort to deal with these letters and help the person involved because "we want to give the citizen a good impression about the office. We don't neglect them and make every effort to coordinate their requests with government offices. Our loyalty is with the citizen and there is no restriction to their access to us. All we ask is for them to give us

the facts and be frank."

His experience has shown that a complaint which an individual brings in person is more effective than one that is mailed because he or she has the opportunity to question the petitioner and take down all the necessary information that may be left out of a letter. In the latter case, a letter must be sent by the bureau to the individual to clear up the facts.

Mr. Abu Karaki is very positive about the ombudsman's office. "The citizen feels he has a place to turn to...People come up to me on the street or telephone me at home to see if a complaint is valid...From the very beginning just the existence of the office produced a good reaction in government offices because they knew we were supervising bad treatment. The cabinet feels this way and we have noticed that even telephone operators will go out of their way to serve us."

The Citizens' Complaints Bureau has its own complaints. They feel that they are understaffed with only five employees working at the office, that they are slowed down by having to use the postal service for lack of a messenger and that they are delayed by government departments that do not respond promptly to requests from the ombudsman's office for information from their side bearing on a citizen's complaint.

These administrative problems, he said, will be taken up soon by the ministerial committee supervising the bureau. Mr. Abu Karaki meets with the ministerial committee twice a week. The com-

mittee includes the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Qasem Rimawi, the Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs, Mr. Suleiman Arar, and the Minister of Municipalities, Rural and Environmental Affairs Dr. Jamal Shu'er.

Complaints should be addressed to:
The Prime Minister
Citizens' Complaints Bureau
(Ombudsman's office)
P.O. Box 35262.

or telephoned to 43346 or 43466
The complainant should give his or her full name, address and telephone number if possible.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	306.00/308.00
U.K. sterling	665.30/669.30
West German mark	161.90/162.90
Swiss franc	170.90/171.90
French franc	69.70/70.10
Italian lire	34.90/35.10
(for every 100)	
Japanese yen	122.60/123.30
(for every 100)	
Dutch guilder	147.80/148.70
Swedish crown	69.40/69.80
Belgium franc	100.10/100.70

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy and hazy with a chance of slight rain. The wind will be southwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba it will be hazy at times and the wind will be northerly moderate with calm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	low 12	high 20
Aqaba	20	30
Deserts	16	26
Jordan Valley	18	27

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Arab Union Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	1626	1.730	1.730	1.730
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing Co.	JD 10,000	31	14.850	14.850	14.850
Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries Co.	JD 5,000	300	5.700	5.700	5.700
Islamic Bank	JD 1,000	500	2.660	2.660	2.660
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	499	13.250	13.200	13.250
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	37887	1.560	1.520	1.520
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	2360	1.920	1.900	1.900
Jordan Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	545	2.350	2.350	2.350
Dar Al Dawaa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	1350	4.350	4.350	4.350
Industrial, Commercial and Agriculture Co.	JD 1,000	636	3.390	3.350	3.350
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	1450	1.060	1.050	1.050
Arab Company for Aluminium Industries	JD 1,000	2200	1.680	1.670	1.670
Arab Company for Paper Manufacture and Trade	JD 1,000	50	1.170	1.170	1.170
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	3948	2.200	2.190	2.200
International Construction and Investment	JD 1,000	1500	1.050	1.050	1.050
Mas for Blades Manufacture	JD 1,000	50	0.730	0.720	0.720
Arab Finance Corporation	JD 2,000	70	3.650	3.650	3.650
Jordan Cement Factories Co.	JD 10,000	116	21.500	21.500	21.500
Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Co.	JD 1,000	2066	1.300	1.300	1.300
Garage Owners Federation Office Co.	JD 1,000	350	5.400	5.400	5.400
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	3846	2.720	2.700	2.700
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5,000	2193	10.300	10.300	10.300

Total volume traded on Monday, March 24, 1980: JD 141.625

Total number of shares traded: 63573

Government Development Bonds

Year of Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
1986	JD 5,000	61	305	5.010	5.010

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More than just 'a girl's best friend'

Diamonds new investment attraction

LONDON, March 24 (R) -- Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but investors too are finding them an increasingly attractive proposition. An exceptionally fine one-carat gem was worth \$19,000 in January 1979. \$39,000 a year later and in March its wholesale value rocketed to \$60,000, according to London dealer Roy Huddleston.

So investors are turning to diamonds, which Mr. Huddleston says are a safer hedge against inflation than gold or shares. But Mr. Huddleston emphasises that the one-carat top quality gem is an extreme case and it often takes time to obtain the best price.

Mr. Huddleston says the growing interest in investing in diamonds is yet another sign that investors are putting their faith in "real things" rather than paper currency. But the market has been depressed recently by high interest rates and falling consumer demand for luxury items such as diamonds.

The diamond market is unusually well equipped to cope with fluctuations in demand as the price of uncut stones is fixed by a sophisticated cartel, the London-based Central Selling Organisation (CSO). The CSO is itself part of the South African De Beers mining group, and has an impressive record for maintaining stability in the diamond market for the last 40 years.

The CSO handles about 85 per cent of world production, the Soviet Union and Ghana are the only diamond-producing countries outside the CSO. But a De Beers spokesman said the organ-

isation indirectly handled a high proportion of Russian output.

Rough gems are sold at "sights" held 10 times a year and attended by 250 dealers from the world's main cutting centres -- Antwerp, Israel, New York, Puerto Rico and London. Each dealer is offered a selection of rough diamonds which he can either totally accept or reject. He cannot pick and choose.

Diamonds range from exceptionally clear gems weighing hundreds of carats to poorly shaped muddy yellow stones suitable only for industrial use.

CSO sales increased slightly from \$2.551 billion in 1978 to \$2.598 billion last year. Calm has been restored at the CSO following a turbulent period two years ago when cutters, especially in Israel, were hoarding stocks to protect themselves against inflation.

This could have boosted prices of available finished stones to fever levels and resulted in rough gems changing hands at prices up to 90 per cent higher than those of the CSO. De Beers stepped in decisively in March 1978 by slapping on an across-the-board 40 per cent surcharge which killed the incipient black market and flushed out diamonds which had been stuck in the pipeline.

The surcharge was removed in August 1978 when prices were increased by an average of 30 per cent. This was followed by a 13 per cent increase in September 1979 and a further 12 per cent rise last month.

World diamond production has remained fairly stable recently at

about 47 million carats annually (one carat equals 200 milligrams or 0.007 ounces). The world's largest producer is Zaire which produced 17 million carats in 1978, of which only about two per cent were of gem quality.

The Soviet Union is the next largest producer (about 12 million carats), followed by South Africa (eight million carats), and Botswana (2.8 million carats). Industry sources say the supply of good quality gem diamonds is slowly being exhausted, although promising discoveries have been made in the Kimberley region of western Australia recently.

A spokesman for the Rio Tinto Zinc mining company said it was too early to tell if the deposits were commercially viable but a London dealer said he was sure Australia would become a significant producer in the next five years. Demand for industrial diamonds is growing at about 10 per cent a year. They are fitted to

drills on oil rigs and give a cutting edge to scalpels used in microsurgery.

The market in industrial diamonds is quieter than the gem trade, mainly because of strong commercial resistance to steep price increases in such an important material. Most developed countries now produce synthetic industrial diamonds and an industry source said half the world's supply of industrial stones could be man-made in the next two or three years.

Synthetic gems are not yet a commercial proposition but industry sources say this could change in the next 10 to 15 years as the cost of natural diamonds spirals. Dealers are nevertheless convinced that synthetic gems will not replace natural diamonds. At least one British firm, Diamond Selection, has developed methods of distinguishing the two, and they are sure that the natural product will always be at a premium.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

LONDON, March 24 -- The market closed quietly mixed, dealers said, and at 1500 the FT index was down 3.2.

Gold shares featured advancing by as much as \$475 in sympathy with the London bullion price. Government bonds were up to 1/8 point firmer on small buying demand ahead of Wednesday's U.K. budget. Equities fluctuated throughout the session to close mixed with an easier bias.

U.S. and Canadian stocks also ended mixed.

Economic News Briefs

'Inflation measures will cause unemployment'

GENEVA, March 24 (AP) -- A major slowdown sought by leading economies as the only means to combat inflation will bring "considerable unemployment" to the industrial world this year, but prices will continue accelerating, the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said Friday.

An UNCTAD secretariat forecast said consumer prices which increased 7.6 and 8.5 per cent in the region in the last two years are likely to rise another 10.7 per cent this year and 9.4 per cent in 1981. Inflation will pick up, particularly in the United States and Japan, it said.

The forecast said prices of manufactured goods in the area are likely to increase by about 12 per cent in 1980 and another 9.5 per cent the following year, while primary commodities excluding petroleum will go up 10 and nine per cent respectively in the two years.

Prices of food commodities will rise by 11.2 per cent this year, but only another six per cent in 1981, it said, while prices of basic non-ferrous metals will go up by 14 and 10 per cent -- copper alone 20 and 10 per cent in the years 1980 and 1981.

Kuwait imposes new oil rate terms

KUWAIT, March 24 (R) -- A leading spokesman for the Arab oil producers, Dr. Ali Atiq, said in a newspaper interview yesterday the Arabs had nothing to do with world-wide inflation.

Western charges that oil producing countries caused inflation through oil price rises must be rejected, Dr. Atiq, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said. "The current wave of inflation started in the 1950s and before the correction of oil prices, when costs of western manufactured goods began to rise," he told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siyasa. Crude oil accounted for only 10-12 per cent of international trade, he commented.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has told its crude oil customers that future oil deliveries depend on them accepting new contract terms, another Kuwaiti newspaper said yesterday. "Those who do not like our conditions can buy oil elsewhere... There is no other alternative," the newspaper Al-Qabas quoted Kuwait's oil minister Sheikh Ali Al-Sabah as saying in an interview.

Freedom to alter oil prices and quotas in response to market conditions was one of the main conditions of new contract Kuwait has prepared, the newspaper said. Some buyers have signed the new contracts in the past few days and more are expected to do so soon, it added.

Kuwait now exports two million barrels a day. British Petroleum buys 450,000 barrels a day, Gulf Oil of the U.S. 500,000 and Royal Dutch/Shell 300,000. But Sheikh Ali has already announced that daily production will be cut after this month to 1.5 million barrels, a measure which the newspaper said had strengthened Kuwait's hand in laying the new contract terms.

On the financial side Kuwait's Finance Minister Abdul Rahman Al-Ahmed was quoted today as saying that the government did not intend raising the present 10 per cent interest rate ceiling despite higher rates offered in the west. "I see no justification for raising the interest rate since it would benefit only the speculators," he told Al-Qabas. The newspaper said the minister also rejected the idea of revaluing the Kuwaiti dinar upward.

The minister denied there was a liquidity crisis in Kuwait, as said capital outflow for higher interests had had no negative effects locally. Kuwaiti laws guarantee freedom of investment anywhere, the minister added.

OPEC needed to meet third world debt

LONDON, March 24 (R) -- International banker George Ball, former U.S. under-secretary of state, said today that OPEC nations should help developing countries meet their huge debt problems. Briefing journalists during a conference of the tripartite commission here, Mr. Ball said there was considerable concern the banking community about the enormous build-up of developing nations' debts -- partly a result of oil price rises.

Some banks were reaching their legal loan limits to certain nations, he said. If oil prices escalated again, recovery operations would have to be organised for some countries that were "likely to get beyond the scope of what banks can do alone," he predicted. Mr. Ball said there should be a very real attempt to involve majority of OPEC countries to contribute.

The tripartite commission is an elite, non-government organisation grouping experts from the United States, West Europe and Japan. It began a conference yesterday which will discuss global security and trade between developed nations and third world countries.

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سكاي ماركت

S. Africa army plotted to subvert parliament

JOHANNESBURG, March 24 (Agencies) — A published secret document has indicated that the South African military planned to intervene in the parliamentary system to support the government and thwart opposition attacks.

It set out plans to manipulate the news media, blunt opposition attacks in parliament and mute criticism of the government, according to the Johannesburg Sunday Times which printed extracts of the military paper yesterday.

Opposition members of parliament were incensed. Harry Schwarz, chief opposition spokesman on defence, said that if the report was correct he would demand the resignation of those who had political responsibility.

A South African Defence Force (SADF) spokesman said Prime Minister Pieter Botha, who is also defence minister, had asked to be briefed on the document "about which he had no knowledge."

Mr. Botha, whose government was shaken by South Africa's "slush funds" scandal only a few months ago, has ordered his generals to give him a copy of the document, amid signs that it could

face his administration with a potentially explosive crisis.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said military departments were to carry out a mission "to nullify the opposition's attack on the prime minister during the budget debate." Defence is expected to play a key part in next Wednesday's annual budget.

Full details of the document were not available, but there was an immediate uproar in opposition parliamentary ranks. Opposition leader Frederik van Zyl Slabbert said: "If the defence force becomes embroiled in party politics it makes a mockery of democracy."

The document, dated February 12, was headed "Psychological action plan: Defence budget debate," the Sunday Times said. The document listed specific tasks which included steps to manipulate the news media, to blunt the opposition's attacks in par-

liament and to mute criticism of the government.

It was reported to the signed on behalf of SADF chief General Magnus Malan by Major-General Phil Pretorius, the director-general of the army's "civil action" department.

The Sunday Times quoted the document as saying in part: "There are a number of contentious subjects which will probably arise during the defence debate. It is undesirable that they may be exploited by the opposition to the detriment of the government..."

"As the opposition tactics develop in the ensuing weeks other likely vulnerabilities may be disclosed."

The document said these vulnerabilities should be brought to the attention of the proper military authorities and concluded: "All actions must be well considered and carried out with circumspection. It must be avoided at all costs that a situation is worsened by lack of judgment. Any artificiality or any appearance of forcing an issue will be counter-productive."

There was no indication in the Sunday Times report which SADF departments received the secret orders. Most SADF operations are closely guarded secrets and official spokesmen rarely comment on troop movements and other activities.

The Sunday Times said in later editions that while early copies of the paper were reaching street sellers top army officers held a hasty meeting, hoping to stop the presses. But it was apparently too late for them to seek a court order.

One defence force source told Reuters that there was nothing sinister in the document, which the Sunday Times obtained in its official English version. "The trouble is that the wording in the original is very badly chosen and has been made even worse in translation from Afrikaans into English," the sources said.

The annual budget will be presented to parliament on Wednesday. A big increase in defence spending above the current two billion rand (\$2.2 billion) a year is predicted in the press.

The expected increase appeared to be linked to South Africa's growing isolation in the face of an international arms boycott. In addition, the recent election victory of Mr. Robert Mugabe, guerrilla leader and now Prime Minister in neighbouring Rhodesia, has been seen in the Afrikaans press as a serious strategic defeat.

Mr. Botha is trying to contain rebellion among far-rightists in the ruling National Party who are opposed to his plans for relaxing some aspects of this white-ruled country's apartheid (racial separation) policies.

Kennedy refuses to be shelved

Carter, Reagan favoured in N.Y. primary

NEW YORK, March 24 (R) — President Carter and Ronald Reagan are tipped as the big winners in tomorrow's New York and Connecticut presidential primary elections, but Senator Edward Kennedy refuses to be written off.

Senator Kennedy was bombarded yesterday with questions on how long he can stay in the race to deprive President Carter of the Democratic party's nomination. The senator shrugged off those questions and managed visits to a Roman Catholic church, a black Baptist church and a Jewish bar mitzvah banquet hall in his quest for a political miracle.

On NBC television's "Meet the Press" programme, Mr. Kennedy was asked about 20 questions. Two-thirds of them dealt with how long he could continue as the can-

didate who has been beaten everywhere but in his home state of Massachusetts by President Carter.

The senator declared he hoped to win at the party convention in New York this August, and when asked if a defeat in the New York primary would at least force him to retreat to running his campaign in Washington, he said: "I can't do that, both chemically and viscerally, it wouldn't be right."

Then he left to revitalise his sagging campaign among black and Jewish voters, two groups that traditionally have been friendly to the Kennedy family.

The first stop was a black Baptist church in Brooklyn, where he was introduced by Pastor Samuel Austin who in effect urged voters not to judge the senator on Chap-

paquidick — an issue which appears to have badly damaged Mr. Kennedy's quest for the White House.

There has been growing public disquiet about the senator's action in the 1969 Chappaquidick incident in which a young woman secretary drowned in his car after it crashed into a tidal pool in Massachusetts. He did not report the accident for some hours.

In ringing pulpit language, Mr. Austin declared: "No man is all plus and no minus. There are some skeletons in all our closets. I give you a man, not a saint, not a God, not a saviour, a true man. Who is here that has not made some mistakes?"

"He took a stand for us. We ask you to take a stand for him."

Then Senator Kennedy went off to an enthusiastic reception from politically active Hassidic Jewish rabbis. They are incensed at President Carter for the U.S. vote in the United Nations — later officially disavowed — against Israeli settlements on occupied Arab territory.

About one in three voters in a New York primary are Jewish and a split Jewish vote could harm the president.

A Harris Poll on Friday said Mr. Carter will beat Mr. Kennedy by a two-to-one margin in the New York primary.

On the Republican side, the names of the candidates do not appear on the ballot. Instead the names of delegates pledged either uncommitted or to front-runner Ronald Reagan and George Bush are listed.

Mr. Reagan is expected to win New York, with uncommitted

Swede referendum limits nuclear energy expansion

STOCKHOLM, March 24 (R) — Swedes have voted for a limited expansion of their nuclear energy programme, according to referendum results today.

Some 58 per cent voted yesterday for starting six new reactors, but no more, a result that could mean nuclear energy will end here after the 25-to-30-year lifespan of the new reactors.

About 39 per cent voted to take Sweden's six working reactors out of operation by 1990, and over three per cent turned in blank ballots.

Sweden's anti-nuclear Prime Minister Thorbjörn Faellidin told a news conference after yesterday's vote in a nuclear-energy referendum that he would abide by the will of the people, but also said that two of the four completed reactors must still be shown to meet safety regulations.

He added that he did not think the other parties could ignore the almost 40 per cent vote against nuclear energy.

He had earlier declared that safety considerations arising from last year's U.S. reactor accident at the Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, which led to this referendum, could halt the starting of new reactors, whatever the result.

The reactor at Three Mile Island has been

closed since a breakdown in the cooling system allowed contaminated gas to escape into the atmosphere a year ago.

Sweden gets more of its electricity per capita from reactors than any other country in Europe and has its own advanced nuclear industry competing on the world market.

A broad movement of Mr. Faellidin's Centre Party, the Communist Party and environmentalists, women's and student groups had emphasised the dangers of a nuclear accident and campaigned for developing solar, wind and wave energy.

Mr. Faellidin's partners in Sweden's centre-right coalition government, the liberals and conservatives, each backed different ballots for six more reactors, the liberals adding a clause calling for public ownership of most power stations.

A similar three-party coalition government elected in 1976 fell in 1978 when Mr. Faellidin went against his partners' nuclear expansion plans, and many commentators here have predicted similar rows after the referendum.

Slightly over 74 per cent of the 6.3 million electorate voted, compared with 90 per cent in last September's general election.

Chad Europeans take refuge at airbase

PARIS, March 24 (R) — Hundreds of Europeans have taken refuge in the French military airbase on the outskirts of N'Djamena as sporadic fighting continued among rival factions in Chad, the foreign ministry said today.

A spokesman said 500 Europeans had arrived at the airbase and those who wished to leave the country were being flown to neighbouring Cameroon.

"There are still several hundred Europeans in the capital city and we expect them to make their way to the base during the day," he said.

He added that Americans, Australians and other foreigners were among those seeking protection at the airbase guarded by 1,100 French soldiers.

The spokesman said there had been sporadic fighting between the forces loyal to President Goukouni Oueddeï and those of Defence Minister Hissene Habre since they signed a ceasefire in the presence of the French ambassador to Chad, Marcel Beaux.

U.K. braces for tighter budget

LONDON, March 24 (R) — The British, who have grown philosophical in recent years over their country's apparently relentless economic decline, are bracing themselves for what could be a grim budget this week.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose Conservative government was swept to power in last May's election with a promise to revitalise the economy, is facing complex problems.

She has openly admitted that it will take time to put her ideas into operation.

"We did not promise you instant sunshine," she said recently in a national television broadcast. She spoke with the knowledge that her popularity had dropped in opinion polls which have shown the opposition Labour party back in public favour at present. But the next election is not due until 1984 and she has a comfortable majority in parliament.

Inflation and unemployment are rising, industrial production is still falling off, the country is suffering from an 11-week steel strike and Mrs. Thatcher's critics are accusing her of accelerating the destruction of British industry by sticking to strict monetarist policies.

The monetarist approach —

maintaining strict control over the amount of money circulating in the economy — has meant that British interest rates are high, restricting credit and therefore squeezing industrial activity by making it more difficult for businesses to obtain loans.

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate has been raised to 17 per cent, putting obstacles in the way of people trying to get loans for home-buying among other things.

Despite this, and in spite of cuts in public spending, lending in the private sector of the economy has remained high, and recent statistics have shown that the government is having difficulty restraining the money supply.

Following on its philosophy of free enterprise and non-state interference, the government has refrained from intervening in pay settlements which some economists say have aggravated inflation, now running at an annual rate of 19.1 per cent.

In the Conservative government's first budget, last June, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, was able to fulfil some of the party's promises by easing income tax in an attempt to encourage incentive to work.

When he presents his next budget on Wednesday, Sir Geoffrey might have to cut public spending even more, leading to further dismantling of Britain's welfare and social services.

He might also have to offset any relief in personal and company taxation by adding more to sales taxes, such as higher petrol charges, and more taxes on alcohol and tobacco, to boost government revenue.

Most financial analysts expect the government to try to hold the amount of money it needs to borrow down to about 8.5 to nine bil-

lion sterling (\$18.5 to \$10.6 billion). The current year's estimate for borrowing is around nine billion sterling.

However, Sir Geoffrey might be able to use increasing North Sea oil revenue as a way of easing the budget blows.

Zia appeals for unity possible against foreign interference

RAWALPINDI, March 24 (R) — Pakistan's military ruler, General Zia Ul Haq, marked the country's national day yesterday by appealing for unity against a possible foreign threat.

He made no mention of his political plans or his efforts to create a civilian government.

A year ago, from the same pavilion at Rawalpindi's race course, he announced that there would be a general election on November 17 and that his mission on taking over power in a bloodless coup against Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in July 1977 was coming to an end.

Seven months later he cancelled the election and imposed a more stringent martial law, banning all political activity and detaining potentially quarrelsome politicians.

This year the general limited his speech to an appeal for national unity. Approaches he has made to some political leaders to join his government have been rejected. Alternative proposals, such as reviving the country's senate, have so far failed to win approval.

The military parade which he reviewed yesterday did not include tanks, armoured vehicles or aircraft, an omission the government said was to conserve fuel. Officers in the armoured divi-

Blast guts Italian consulate in U.K

LONDON, March 24 (Agencies) — An explosion wrecked the Italian consulate in London today and police, ruling out an act of terrorism, said it could have been caused by someone with a grudge.

Police said they were questioning an Italian man detained at his London home soon after the explosion, which gutted the five-storey building and destroyed records of the 140,000 Italians living in the British capital.

The consulate, in a row of terraced houses in the Belgrave district, was empty and no one was injured in the pre-dawn blast, so powerful that police at first suspected it had been caused by a 40-kilo bomb.

But there were no claims of responsibility from guerrilla groups and commander Peter Duffy, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, later said high explosives were not involved and he did not consider it an act of terrorism.

Asked by reporters if the explosion might have been the result of a personal vendetta or grudge, Mr. Duffy said: "It may well have been."

Police were working on the theory that an incendiary device set off a gas explosion.

More than 100 people living nearby were evacuated but no one was hurt in the blast or the fire.

First reports spoke of three explosions at the consulate. Scotland Yard, which sent its bomb squad to the scene, later said there was only one blast.

Police said they were looking for two cars which were driven away from the scene just after the explosion.

Firemen from all over London were called out to fight the blaze. A fire brigade spokesman said the building was gutted. "The roof is off, the front of the building has collapsed and all the floors have been damaged by fire," he said, adding "the building was burning from top to bottom."

Amanda Rolt, a 19-year-old student who lives in a top floor apartment two doors away from the consulate, reported smelling gas shortly before the explosion.

"It was frightening, absolutely horrible," she told reporters, "bed jumped and the whole building shook. I looked out of the window and smoke was just pouring into the street."

Italian photographer Bar Fabiani, 27, who lives nearly 1 metres away, said: "I heard enormous bang. The whole building felt as though it was going to collapse. The windows and doors shook and my bed moved."

Mr. Fabiani grabbed cameras and ran into the smog jammed with alarmed residents in their pyjamas and nightdresses.

Cossiga asked to form Italy's new government

ROME, March 24 (AP) — President Sandro Pertini yesterday asked Francesco Cossiga, a Christian Democrat whose cabinet collapsed last Wednesday, to form Italy's 39th government.

"I accepted the design with reservation because the ahead is enormous, but I will my best for a quick solution of political crisis at a time of moving terrorism," said Mr. Cossiga emerging from an hour-long meeting with the Socialist president of the Quirinal Palace.

Mr. Cossiga, 51, resigned Wednesday after seven months in office because the Socialists drew their support from his government. He accepted president's offer.

Political analysts expected Cossiga to seek a coalition government including the Socialists and smaller parties, but exclude the Communists, the second largest party after the Christian Democrats.

If successful, it would be the first centre-left coalition government in Italy in six years.



Gen. Zia Ul-Haq

sion based near Rawalpindi were said to have been involved in a coup plot uncovered on March 5.

According to reports circulating in Islamabad the plotters had hoped to overthrow Gen. Zia yesterday while he reviewed the military parade at Rawalpindi's race course.

A retired major general and three of his relatives serving in the armoured division and the third Baluch regiment have been arrested in connection with the plot.

A detachment from the third Baluch regiment, which was on presidential guard duty when the

alleged coup plot was uncovered by telephone eavesdropping, part in the parade.

Gen. Zia said that the forces must guard against intervention by an external power.

He did not mention the Union by name but referred what he described as the de facto Pakistan's western border with Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan at the end of last year has put 5 troops within a few kilometres of the ill-defined mountainous border between the two countries.

The general said that as a result of the changes in Afghanistan, responsibilities of the forces had increased.

"Our frontiers are in the hands of reliable defenders who will be oblivious of their duties must maintain internal security and guard against any intervention of an expansionist power," he said.

"If the nation is united, even the greediest enemy could not..."

The general said about 60 refugees had crossed Afghanistan to Pakistan in government would continue to give them every human help in accordance with Pakistani Islamic traditions.

Kabul regime vows to defeat Muslim rebel

KABUL, — Afghanistan's Marxist government has begun its new year, determined to defeat Muslim insurgency in the countryside.

The government of President Babrak Karmal, who came to power in a Soviet-backed coup on December 27, has given main priority to the fight against the insurgents, describing them as not true Muslims.

Afghanistan, running 621 years behind the Gregorian calendar, entered the year 1359 last Friday with about 85,000 Soviet troops on its territory, according to western estimates.

The troops, whose presence in Afghanistan is widely resented by the population, are there for what is officially described as a temporary stay.

Dastagir Panjshiri, a member of the Afghan revolutionary council, said on Thursday the Russians would go home when foreign aggression ended.

Deputy Premier Assadullah Sarwari said earlier last week that the government could only tackle

development problems after security had been restored.

Major offensives against rebels in the eastern provinces of Kunar and Paktia bordering Pakistan were reported earlier this month. The government denied that Soviet troops took part.

Government forces are expected to crack down on insurgents in other parts of the country when the weather improves. Although the new year coincided with the first day of spring, many areas are snow-bound, including the mountains around Kabul.

Predicted new year demonstrations against the Soviet presence in Kabul failed to materialise. The city, which diplomatic sources say is ringed by the two Soviet divisions, was tense but calm on New Year's day.

But there was also little sign of the festivities which Kabul radio said would be held throughout the country.

Heavy gunfire was heard in the city several times last week but it could have been previously announced military exercises.

What one eyewitness described by a missile, apparently fired by

mistake, landed in unused ground near a group of foreign embassies on Wednesday.

On the whole, however, the city remained calm. Soviet and Afghan tanks have been guarding bridges across the narrow Kabul river and other strategic points since violent demonstrations last month against the Soviet intervention.

A group of 309 people, arrested during and after the demonstrations on February 21 and 22, were released last week, bringing the total number freed to 1,387, according to the official Bakhtar News Agency.

Foreign residents said at least 2,000 people were detained after the demonstrations in which hundreds are believed to have been killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, the government is continuing its efforts to form what it calls a broad-based national fatherland front and has announced the appointment of more non-party members to senior government posts.

The government-controlled Kabul New Times newspaper said new year resolutions should be geared to Afghanistan's social and

economic development. It said priority should be given to agriculture as 85 per cent of the 15 million Afghans still earn their living by farming.

The paper said in an editorial on Thursday that Afghans should make their resolutions in accord with government priorities.

It added: "Of course this does not mean that we will all be turned into robots and move our limbs as strings are pulled from above."

"We must simply be one with our government to achieve the long-cherished desirable national development so that everybody may be able to lead a decent life in this country, which is potentially rich but actually one of the 25 least-developed nations on earth."

Meanwhile, in Moscow today Pravda denied any Soviet ambition to expand its territory or impose its system on other peoples and accused the United States of threatening countries' sovereignty.

The Communist Party daily said: "The USSR does not covet other people's resources, does not encroach upon the security of other states, does not intend to impose its way of life on others."

It said U.S. policy threatened other countries' independence and sovereignty that caused tension in national relations.

It added: "Our principle peaceful cooperation, a settlement of all problems mutual satisfaction and benefit."

Pravda said there was a connection between "the fact that United States for decades been as a matter of fact a just political settlement in the Middle East and what is now going place in the Gulf area: the western part of the Ocean."

"Is not the U.S. reaction events, first in Iran and Afghanistan — an extremely open, bellicose and aggressive — a derivative of the standstill conceptions of U.S.A., and envisaging the U.S. control of the Middle East?" Pravda asked. "The article made no reference to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan."

REUTERS